



TSTA NEWS

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Public schools are about duty; vouchers are about politics and shortsightedness

Texas State Teachers Association President Ovidia Molina released the following statement:

Gov. Abbott doesn't seem to understand that the bright Texas future he loves to brag about, including that new \$32.7 billion surplus, owes a lot to the hard work of Texas public schools and public school educators. Businesses and our economy couldn't operate very long without them.

If he did understand, he would stop calling on legislators to undermine that prosperity by stealing tax money from these public schools and giving it away to private school operators in the form of vouchers. During his state of the state address tonight, Abbott called them education savings accounts. But they are a form of voucher because they take tax money from public schools.

The governor also promised that, despite vouchers, all public schools would remain "fully funded." They are not fully funded now.

If Abbott really cared about Texas' future, the future of every Texan, he would build up our neighborhood public schools, not continue to tear them down. Instead of investing in private education, he would invest in public school children by providing them with more classroom resources. That's where our future is.

He would give priority to investing more in our public schools, including our teachers, support staff and retirees, with meaningful increases in pay, livable pensions and more affordable health care.

Gov. Abbott has a constitutional duty to fully fund and equitably support our public schools with our tax dollars. He has only politics to pressure him to give any of that money away — politics and shortsightedness.